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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An aerial work apparatus comprising:

- a base;
- a boom mounted to the base;
- a platform attached to the distal end of the boom, the platform having a load;
- a boom mechanism operationally attached to the boom for positioning the platform;
- a boom control module mounted with respect to the platform for controlling the boom mechanism;
- a vertical load-sensing mechanism mounted at the platform for measuring the platform load and generating a load signal based thereon, the platform resting upon an uppermost portion of the load-sensing mechanism wherein the load-sensing mechanism fully supports the platform; and
- a controller operationally attached to the boom mechanism and the boom control module, whereby the boom control module controls the boom mechanism through the controller and wherein the controller receives the load signal and at least one position signal relating to the position of the platform and generates at least one control signal based thereon.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 14 [[4]] wherein the informational display console is integral with the boom control module.

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6. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 1 further comprising ~~→ a platform support member attached to the platform, and~~ a vertical holding support column attached at the distal end of the boom, the holding column having a top and holding the load-sensing mechanism in position at the top ~~such that the load-sensing mechanism fully supports the platform support member, thereby to~~ measure sense the platform load.

7. (Original) The aerial work apparatus of claim 6 wherein the load-sensing mechanism includes a load cell.

8. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 7 wherein the uppermost portion is ~~load-sensing mechanism includes~~ a support bushing and the platform includes a platform support member, whereby the load-sensing mechanism makes contact with the platform support member resting upon through the support bushing such that the weight of ~~to focus~~ the platform load is directly applied to ~~upon~~ the support bushing load-cell.

9. (Original) The aerial work apparatus of claim 8 wherein the load cell is a hydraulic load cell.

10. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 6 further comprising at least two sleeve bearings attached to the platform and having a pivotal ~~an~~ engagement with the holding support column that is substantially frictionless.

11. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 10 wherein the sleeve bearings include sleeve bushings, each of the bushings being configured such that negligible vertical frictional loading occurs between the sleeve bearings and ~~are pivotally engaged with the~~ holding support column.

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12. (Original) The aerial work apparatus of claim 6 wherein:

- the control signals generated by the controller include a limit signal based on a determination of overcapacity; and
- the boom control module receives the limit signal to halt overcapacity movement of the boom, wherein overcapacity movement includes extension of the boom and lowering of the boom.

13. (Original) The aerial work apparatus of claim 12 wherein the boom control module includes an informational display console and wherein:

- the control signals generated by the controller include informational signals based on a determination of platform load and platform capacity; and
- the informational display console receives the informational signals and displays the platform load and the platform capacity in response thereto.

14. (Original) The aerial work apparatus of claim 13 wherein the informational display console receives the limit signal and displays an overcapacity message in response thereto, thereby alerting the operator that the boom mechanism has been overridden.

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15. (Currently Amended) In an aerial work apparatus having a boom mounted to a base and a platform attached to the distal end of the boom, the platform having a load, the improvement comprising:

- a load-sensing mechanism at the platform for measuring the platform load;
- a platform support member attached to the platform, the platform support member resting upon the load-sensing mechanism such that the load-sensing mechanism fully supports the platform; and
- a vertical holding support column attached at the distal end of the boom, the holding column having a top and holding the load-sensing mechanism in position at the top such that the load-sensing mechanism fully supports the platform support member, thereby to sense the platform load.

16. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 21 ~~15~~ wherein the load-sensing mechanism includes a load cell.

17. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 16 wherein the uppermost portion is load-sensing mechanism includes a support bushing such that the weight of, ~~whereby the load-sensing mechanism makes contact with the platform support member through the support bushing to focus the platform load is directly applied to upon the support bushing load cell.~~

18. (Original) The aerial work apparatus of claim 17 wherein the load cell is a hydraulic load cell.

19. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 15 further comprising at least two sleeve bearings attached to the platform and having a pivotal ~~an~~ engagement with the holding support column that is substantially frictionless.

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20. (Currently Amended) The aerial work apparatus of claim 19 wherein the sleeve bearings include sleeve bushings, each of the bushings being configured such that negligible vertical frictional loading occurs between the sleeve bearings and are pivotally engaged with the holding support column.

21. (New) The aerial work apparatus of claim 15 wherein the load-sensing mechanism has an uppermost portion such that the platform support member rests upon the uppermost portion.